

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable pad set for a protective helmet,
comprising:

a plurality of individually separable internal pads of various thicknesses;

a plurality of pad retaining/locating devices, each having a pocket for
receiving ~~at least one~~ one or more of the plurality of individually separable internal pads
so as to form an individual pad of the adjustable pad set; and

at least one fastener for each of the plurality of pad retaining/locating
devices for respectively securing the each of the plurality of pad retaining/locating
devices to a selected location within the protective helmet,

wherein different order-independent combinations of the plurality of
individually separable internal pads are capable of being disposed in the pocket of each of
the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices so as to provide different thicknesses
within the pocket while simultaneously providing cushioning from impact.

2. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein the at least one
fastener is a hook and pile fastener.

3. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices comprises at least one other fastener for
keeping the pocket closed to retain any of the plurality of internal pads therein.

4. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 3, wherein the at least one other fastener is a hook and pile fastener.

5. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices comprises at least one flap for covering the pocket.

6. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 5, wherein the at least one flap has at least one other fastener disposed thereon for keeping the at least one flap closed to retain any of the plurality of internal pads within the pocket.

7. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 5, wherein the at least one other fastener is a hook and pile fastener.

8. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of internal pads is formed from at least one of viscoelastic foam and polyurethane foam.

9. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices is formed from at least one of looped knit nylon.

10. (Currently Amended) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of individual pads of the adjustable pad set are capable of being formed from the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices and the plurality of internal pads, the protective helmet includes a crown portion, and at least two of the plurality of individual pads are adapted to be positioned in the crown portion so as to surround, and not overlap, at least a portion of a headband of an audio headset while providing cushioning from impact for a crown of a head of a wearer

11. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 10, wherein each of the at least two of the plurality of individual pads is semi-circular in shape.

12. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of internal pads comprises various shaped internal pads.

13. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 12, wherein the various shaped internal pads correspond to different areas of a head of a wearer.

14. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 12, wherein the various shaped internal pads correspond to at least one of a crown area, a front dome area, a rear dome area, a side dome area, and a side area of a user's head.

15. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices comprises various shaped pad retaining/locating devices.

16. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 15, wherein the various shaped pad retaining/locating devices correspond to different areas of a head of a wearer.

17. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, further comprising at least one outermost pad pocket adapted to receive at least two of the plurality of pad retaining/locating devices to form a larger individual pad of the adjustable pad set.

18. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 17, wherein the at least one outermost pad pocket is formed from at least one of looped knit nylon.

19. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 10, further comprising an outermost pad pocket adapted to receive the at least two of the plurality of individual pads that are adapted to be positioned in the crown portion.

20. (Original) The adjustable pad set according to claim 19, wherein the outermost pad pocket is further adapted to allow the headband of the audio headset to at least one of pass there through or lie adjacent thereto.

21. (Amended) A protective helmet capable of being worn with an audio headset having a headband extending from earcup to earcup, the protective helmet comprising:

a padded shell having a re-locatable pad to provide a headset headband receiving zone and including nape and brow portions; and

a fastener to secure the re-locatable pad outside the headset headband receiving zone to avoid overlapping the headset headband so that during headset headband use the re-locatable pad has an arcuate-shaped edge adapted to be co-linear with a crown section of the headset headband and a spherical section extending away from the arcuate-shaped edge in a direction towards one of the nape and brow portions and terminating in a crescent shaped edge.

22. (Currently Amended) The protective helmet of claim 21, wherein said padded shell further has another re-locatable pad, and said protective helmet further comprises another fastener to secure the other re-locatable pad outside the headband receiving zone so that during the headband use the other re-locatable pad has the arcuate-shaped edge adapted to be co-linear with the crown section of the headband and the spherical section extending away from the arcuate-shaped edge in a direction towards one of the nape and brow portions.

23. (Original) The protective helmet of claim 21, wherein said padded shell further has another re-locatable pad, and said protective helmet further comprises another fastener, and wherein the fastener of the re-locatable pad and the other fastener of the other pad are positionable so as to secure the pad and the other pad such that the arcuate-

shaped edge of the pad is adjacent the arcuate-shaped edge of the other pad in an absence of the headband at the headband receiving zone.

24. (Original) The protective helmet of claim 21, wherein the re-locatable pad is adjustable with respect to thickness.

25. (Original) The protective helmet of claim 21, wherein the re-locatable pad comprises:

a plurality of internal pads of various thickness; and

a pad retaining/locating device having a pocket for receiving at least one of the plurality of internal pads.

26. (Original) The protective helmet of claim 21, further comprising a plurality of other pads, adjustable for both location and thickness.

27. (New) The adjustable pad set according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of individually separable internal pads are capable of being re-combined into other combinations, subsequent to any prior combinations thereof.